

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAB-02 H-01 NSC-05 DODE-00  
CIAE-00 TRSE-00 PA-01 L-03 SS-15 INR-07 NSAE-00  
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S E C R E T STATE 091508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES  
REPORT - APRIL 16 - APRIL 22

1. NEXT NEGOTIATING ROUND. PANAMA'S NEGOTIATORS HAVE  
ACCEPTED A U.S. INVITATION TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR A NEW  
ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCING MAY 9.

2. RULES OF NEUTRALITY. DOD REPRESENTATIVES APRIL 22  
BRIEFED THE NEGOTIATORS ON DOD VIEWS CONCERNING RULES OF  
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NEUTRALITY.

3. NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH TORRIJOS. IN ITS APRIL 25  
ISSUE NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL  
TORRIJOS MADE ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM LIBYA. THE NEWSWEEK  
STORY WAS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY U.S. PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN  
TORRIJOS' LIBYA TRIP.

4. ECONOMIC STUDY TEAM TO PANAMA. PURSUANT TO THE NEGOTIATORS' REQUEST REPORTED LAST WEEK AN INTERAGENCY STUDY TEAM ARRIVED IN PANAMA APRIL 20 TO GATHER DATA ABOUT AVAILABLE OPTIONS ON ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS UNDER A NEW TREATY. TEAM, WHICH CONSISTS OF RICHARD CAMAUR (ARA/PAN), ROBERT TAYLER (ARA/ECP), AND ALAN RHINESMITH (OMB), EXPECTS TO RETURN ON APRIL 27. WHILE IN PANAMA, THEY WILL CONSULT WITH PANAMA CANAL COMPANY AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

5. PROSPECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL TRIPS. THE CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS (WHICH OPPOSES TREATY NEGOTIATIONS) APRIL 18 ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR DELEGATION TO VISIT PANAMA OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TO INVESTIGATE NEED FOR NEW CANAL TREATY. PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ARE GOVERNOR MELDRIM THOMSON OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (A REPUBLICAN), REP. LARRY MCDONALD (D-GA.), AND HOWARD PHILLIPS, FORMER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY HEAD IN NIXON ADMINISTRATION. DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO MAKE ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS ALTHOUGH DEPT. HAS OFFERED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING VISIT TO PANAMA ALSO ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY BE HEADED BY SEN. STENNIS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

6. APPROVAL OF NEW PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR. AGREEMENT FOR GABRIEL LEWIS GALINDO AS NEXT PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WAS APPROVED APRIL 20.

7. ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. NAVY VESSELS TO CANAL ZONE. ARA/PAN,  
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FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSY PANAMA, IS PREPARING AFFIRMATIVE "IN-PRINCIPLE" RESPONSE TO DOD REQUEST, RECEIVED APRIL 19, FOR CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSED EARLY FY 78 ASSIGNMENT OF SMALL NUMBER OF RIVERINE AND PATROL BOATS TO CANAL ZONE.

8. GENERAL MCAULIFFE MEETS TODMAN AND BUNKER. GENERAL MCAULIFFE, CINCSOUTH, PAID COURTESY CALLS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND AMBASSADOR BUNKER APRIL 19.

9. ECLA. THE PANAMA PAPER FOR THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE ECLA MEETING IN GUATEMALA BEGINNING APRIL 25 POINTS OUT THAT PANAMA HAS IN THE PAST ATTEMPTED TO USE INTERNA-

TIONAL FORA IN ORDER TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION IN THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE PAPER NOTES THAT STRONG PANAMANIAN STATEMENTS OR AN IMBALANCED RESOLUTION COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE MAY ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

10. MENDELSON CASE. DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING CASE OF DAVID MENDELSON, ESTRANGED U.S.-CITIZEN HUSBAND OF PANAMANIAN TV PERSONALITY MAYIN CORREA, WHO WAS DETAINED BY NATIONAL GUARD AT HIS WIFE'S REQUEST ON APRIL 3 AND AFTER BEING HELD FOR TEN HOURS WAS PUT ON PLANE TO MIAMI. MENDELSON ALLEGES MISTREATMENT WHILE IN GUARD CUSTODY AND DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS. SENATORS ALLEN AND SPARKMAN AND REP. EDWARDS OF ALABAMA HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CASE; AND SEN. STONE OF FLORIDA, IN LETTER TO AMB. LINOWITZ, HAS CITED IT AS EXAMPLE OF CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PANAMA.

11. PUBLIC AFFAIRS. ARA/PAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR WYROUGH DISCUSSED TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AS PART OF PANEL ON LATIN AMERICA AT ANNUAL FOREIGN SERVICE DAY PROGRAM APRIL 22. VANCE

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